THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) The Government Resolution appointing the Fourth Pay Commission was issued on 29-7-1983.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Unauthorised use of Government vehicles

154. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 128 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th February, 1992 and state:

(a) whether under its economy drive Government propose to take some stern steps to ensure no unauthorised use of entitled officers;

(b) whether Government also propose to take steps to ensure the parking of Government vehicles in office complexes after hours instead of allowing drivers to park these vehicles at their houses after office hours; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) The steps taken by Government under its economy drive to ensure minimum consumption of petrol by Government vehicles and use of Government vehicles only on genuine grounds are indicated in the statement attached (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Instructions already exist that staff cars should be parked only in the garages allotted near the place of duty and in the absence of garages, within the office complex.

Statement

(i) Instructions weres issued to all Ministries/Departments in June, 1990 that from 1990-91 onwards, consumption of petrol and diesel in Government vehicles, including Staff Cars, should be reduced by 20 per cent over the consumption of petrol and diesel during 1989-90. These instructions were reiterated in April, 1991. Further instructions were issued on 1-8-1991 to all Ministries/Departments that total expenditure on petrol/diesel to be incurred during 1991-92 shall be restricted to the expenditure incurred during 1990-91 be restricted to the expenditure incurred during 1990-91 on the quantity of petrol/diesel fixed by applying a 20 per cent out on the consumption of petrol/diesel during 1989-90.

(ii) Instructions exist that Government vehicles, except when on deployment for emergency and other unavoidable operational duties, and staff cars shall not be used on Sundays.

(iii) Instructions have also been issued to all Ministries/Departments, reiterating the pooling arrangements that officers should travel in the same car, to the extent possible, instead of travelling separately both in respect of journeys between office and residence and for attending meetings and other official work.

(iv) Purchase of new vehicles has been banned.

(v) The Staff Car Rules which regulate the use of Staff Cars, contain the necessary provisions to ensure use of official vehicles for *bonafide* purposes only and to prevent their misuse.

Bank fraud cases in Madhya Pradesh

155. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many Bank fraud cases involving crores of

rupees were detected, recently, in the State of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the number of such cases in which Bank employees were involved; and

(d) what action Government have taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (d) The existing management information system does not yield information regarding bank frauds State-wise. However, 1559 cases of fraud were reported to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) by 28 public sector banks during the year 1991. RBI has further reported that during the year 1991, 50 employees of public sector banks were convinced and 699 employees were given major/minor penalties for their involvement in frauds irrespective of the date of occurrence.

High growth rate of deposits in foreign Banks

156. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the year ending 1991 showed a high growth rate of deposits in foreign banks as compared to Indian banks;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what are the reasons for such a decline in Indian Banks deposits; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) The percentage growth of deposits of foreign banks and public sector banks for the year ended March, 1991 were 31 per cent and 14 per vent respectively.

(c) and (d) The performance of foreign banks in India vis-a-vis public sector banks in the matter of growth of deposits and also in other areas of working is not comparable because the branches of foreign banks in India are located in metropolitan and port towns, where the potential for deposit growth is more than semi-urban and rural areas. The branches of public sector banks are spread all over the country covering semi-urban and rural areas also. Moreover, foreign banks have world-wide networks of branches which enable them to attract more deposits from non-resident Indians.

Excise duty evasion by Pharmaceutical companies

157. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the anti-evasion wing of the Revenue Department have unearthed evasion of excise duty in production of intermediate bulk drugs by several pharmaceuticals companies producing bulk drugs in the country;

(b) if so, what is the number of companies that have been identified by Government to be evading tax; and

(c) what is the total amount collected and to be colleted from these companies together with their names?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.